

**From:** Dan Caless  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 1:23pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for Microsoft and against any actions the government may take against it. Microsoft has earned its great success. It did not achieve it through any sort of coercive means, such as special government protection or subsidies. It did not use actual coercion against its competitors at all - everything it did was through voluntary agreements with other parties, whether those parties were particularly happy with the agreements or not. Therefore Microsoft's competitors have nothing to complain about: all Microsoft's actions were legitimate business activities that should be protected by the government, not punished by it.

I consider the anti-trust laws one of the worst corruptions of law that has ever occurred in this country. They are non-objective in that they have a very wide scope of interpretation so a business has no way of knowing ahead of time if it is guilty or innocent of breaking them. Virtually every business breaks them in that every business dominates some kind of niche, and every business responds to competitors' price and product changes. Like Microsoft, every business works hard to get consumers to use their products and undercut competitors. Hence enforcement is very politicized and arbitrary, often the result of what party is in office and the influence of the competitors, consumer advocates, etc. They are Soviet-style - the government can threaten any business with them and use them as a whip to cow companies into doing what the government wants. They are clearly the product of envy, and historically they've been used to bring down the best and most successful companies in the country.

Finally, I'm horrified that persecuting Microsoft might slow down technological progress. The government is persecuting a company that spends billions on R&D and product development. Because Microsoft is so widely used, incorporating new features into its products greatly speeds up their distribution, which speeds up people using and implementing them. The result is that people and companies can do more with their software and raise their productivity sooner. One important reason why most people have settled on Microsoft products is because they're a standard already. That greatly benefits users because there's a depth of talent available to work with them and users don't have to waste time dealing with different software producers and incompatible products. The standardization around Microsoft makes computing easier, more productive, and speeds new technology distribution, all of which greatly benefits us economically and raises our standard of living, and so makes all of us materially better off.

I would like to see the government totally drop the persecution of Microsoft. Quite the opposite, it should affirm that it protects the right

to property and liberty of the shareholders of Microsoft. The purpose of government is not to protect the incompetent or weak or to legislate envy and hatred of success; it's to protect everyone's, including Bill Gates', right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Sincerely,

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